



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

JUN 30 2009

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the  
COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to:

USCGC JUNIPER (WLB 201)  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

for service set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious service from June 2006 to July 2009 while engaged in the execution of multi-mission operations throughout the First Coast Guard District. Displaying outstanding leadership, USCGC JUNIPER (WLB 201) coordinated the extension of Ambrose Channel, the main shipping channel into the Port of New York/New Jersey, and the third busiest port in the U.S. This project involved the relocation, renumbering, or establishment of 42 buoys in the channel and its outer approaches in only four days despite unfavorable weather. This major channel restructuring increased the controlling depth from 45 to 52 feet, safely allowing even deeper-draft vessels into the ever-expanding port. Leveraging the latest Aids to Navigation technology, JUNIPER aggressively converted more than 140 buoy lights from traditional incandescent bulbs to Light-Emitting Diodes, achieving a 92 percent conversion rate, more than double the Coast Guard-wide average. These conversions reduced both buoy discrepancies and underway Aids to Navigation hours by 50 percent, further improving service to the mariner while also allowing JUNIPER to shift significant underway hours to the First District's fisheries enforcement mission, Operation ATLANTIC VENTURE. Demonstrating unwavering commitment to multi-mission readiness, JUNIPER conducted 84 boardings, issued 47 violations, terminated two voyages due to unsafe conditions and became the very first buoy tender to serve as offshore command platform, directing the efforts of aircraft and three patrol boats in the enforcement of critical New England fisheries regulations. The embodiment of its *Leading the Way* motto, JUNIPER also became the first Coast Guard cutter in service history to serve as an offshore vertical insertion "lilly pad" for an actual Maritime Safety and Security Team law enforcement operation. Further exhibiting outstanding multi-mission readiness, JUNIPER towed the disabled Fishing Vessel SEA SIREN for 24 hours, and 160 miles back to port in 30-knot winds and ten-foot seas, ensuring the safety of the crew. The devotion to duty and outstanding performance demonstrated by USCGC JUNIPER are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

D. G. GABEL  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, First Coast Guard District